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ABSTRACT

This report presents tables, graphs, and text detailing special education statistics for the state of Colorado for the school year 1994-95. The first section of the report includes the following information: (1) the number of children with disabilities served by disability category; (2) the number of students with disabilities served by disability and percent of each disability; (3) the age of students with disabilities; (4) the number of students with disabilities served in various settings; (5) the number of students with disabilities served in home schools by disability; (6) the percent of students with disabilities by disability and gender; and (7) the exit status of students with disabilities. Additional sections of the report include data on the number and different occupations of special education staff, special education expenditures, and special education revenues. A chart includes the number of special education students served in each individual administrative unit, the cost per student, and the total special education expenditures for each unit. The report's data indicate there was a total of 57,419 children with disabilities served in the school year 1994-95, 62 percent of students with disabilities were served within their home school, and the total special education expenditure was $294,162,335. (CR)

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SPECIAL EDUCATION DATA REPORT 1994-95

August 1996

Education of Children with Disabilities

The Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA) directs the Department of Education to prepare an annual report concerning special education programs. In 1994, this Act was amended to stipulate that the report should be based on information required by the Federal Government, and that no additional information should be collected by the Department. As a result, data presented in this report cannot be compared to information published previously. Specific changes in the data are addressed below.

Children Served

Prior to 1994-95, administrative units submitted unduplicated counts of the numbers of children with disabilities served in each unit throughout the entire school year. This data reflected only children served by public schools, and did not include those served in eligible facilities such as child placement agencies, hospitals, residential child care facilities, and day treatment centers. Information in this report is based on a statewide unduplicated count of children served on December 1, 1994, and includes children with disabilities that were served in public school programs, as well as in eligible facilities. It also includes children in private schools and Head Start programs if the administrative unit contracted and paid for services in those settings. It does not include children served by the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), the Department of Corrections, Youth Corrections, or the mental health institutes at Fort Logan and Pueblo. Previous data collection included hours of special education services provided to each child, and was used as a measure of severity. This information is no longer available.

Special Education Personnel

Through 1993-94, administrative units reported individual staff data on all special education salaried and contracted personnel employed throughout the school year, including summer school. Information included FTEs, salaries, and assignments. Data is now collected for licensed personnel employed on December 1, and does not include information on salaries for specific assignments.

Revenues and Expenditures

Expenditures are still collected at the end of the fiscal year, and therefore this data is comparable to information previously reported. However, the average cost per student will be higher because financial data is cumulative for the year, while student data is based on a one-day count. Total instructional and total support services salaries are available, but cannot be delineated for teachers, paraprofessionals, related services personnel, or administrators. No average salary data is available.

The 1993-94 fiscal year was the last year that public school special education programs were funded on a cost reimbursement basis. Also, because of the changes in the funding system, as well as changes in data collection requirements, the statute was changed to eliminate the requirement for the Department of Education to determine the portion of General Fund dollars available for students who were served in self-contained programs. As a result, the State contribution to special education for 1994-95 only reflects categorical funds under the Exceptional Children's Educational Act and the School Finance money for special education preschool programs.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with Disabilities
December 1, 1994

Disability	Total Children Served
Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity	2,885
Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability	8,274
Perceptual or Communicative Disability	33,660
Hearing Disability	969
Vision Disability	299
Physical Disability	
Autism	65
Traumatic Brain Injury	115
Other Physical Disabilities	2,632
Speech-Language Disability	11,987
Multiple Disabilities	
Deaf-Blind	92
Other Multiple Disabilities	2,962
Preschool Child with a Disability	3,453
Infant with a Disability	26
Total	67,419

- On December 1, 1994, administrative units reported 67,419 children with disabilities, ages birth through 21. An additional 668 children with disabilities were reported by the five state operated programs at CSDB, the Department of Corrections, Youth Corrections, and Fort Logan and Pueblo Mental Health Institutes.

- According to recent figures published by the U.S. Department of Education, Colorado ranks 42nd among the 50 states in the percent of its resident school aged population served in special education.

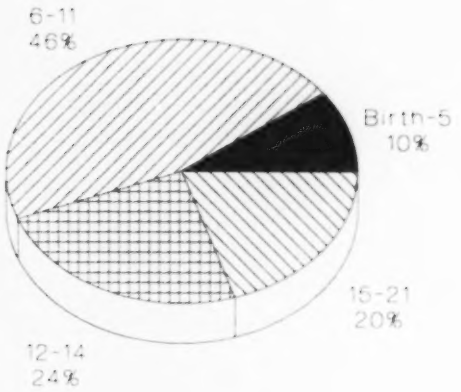
Students Served, by Disability and Percent of Disability
December 1, 1994

Disability	Total Students Served	Percent of Total
Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity	2,885	4.3%
Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability	8,274	12.3%
Perceptual or Communicative Disability	33,660	49.9%
Hearing Disability	969	1.4%
Vision Disability	299	0.4%
Physical Disability		
Autism	65	0.1%
Traumatic Brain Injury	115	0.2%
Other Physical Disabilities	2,632	3.9%
Speech-Language Disability	11,987	17.8%
Multiple Disabilities		
Deaf-Blind	92	0.1%
Other Multiple Disabilities	2,962	4.4%
Preschool Child with a Disability	3,453	5.1%
Infant with a Disability	26	0.1%
Total	67,419	100.0%
Percent of Membership	640,521	10.5%
Percent of 3-17 Population	770,171	8.8%

- Ten and one-half percent (10.5%) of the total school membership was served in special education programs. This percentage varied across administrative units, from a low of 7.6% to a high of 13.9%. Children with disabilities were 8.8% of the state's total 3-17 population.

- Almost half (49.9%) of the children in special education had a perceptual or communicative disability.

Age of Students with Disabilities
December 1, 1994



- Forty-six percent (46%) of the special education students were ages six through 11. Forty-nine percent (49%) of these elementary aged students were learning disabled, and 25% had a speech/language disability. At the secondary level, the number of learning disabled students increased to 62%, while speech/language students decreased to 6% of the total number of children with disabilities.

- The vast majority of children with disabilities were served within their administrative unit of residence (96.7%); .3% were served by other administrative units; 2.2% were served by facilities with approved on-grounds schools; and .8% received their special education services from Head Start, private schools, or other service providers. Only two of Colorado's special education students were placed out of the state.

Students Served, by Setting
December 1, 1994

Setting	Total Students Served	Percent of Total
Home School	55,267	82.0%
Center Based Program	5,212	7.7%
Separate Facility	968	1.4%
Residential Facility	616	0.9%
Community	207	0.3%
Home	178	0.3%
Hospital	83	0.1%
Other Infant/Preschool Settings	4,888	7.3%
Total	67,419	100.0%

- Eighty-two percent (82.0%) of special education students were served within their home school; 7.7% were served in center-based programs; 1.4% received their special education services in separate day facilities; .9% were in residential facilities; .7% received their special education program in a community placement, home, or hospital; and 7.3% were in infant or preschool settings.

Students Served in Home School, by Disability
December 1, 1994

Disability	Students Served in Home School	Total Served in All Settings	Percent in Home School
Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity	1,885	2,885	65.3%
Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability	5,904	8,274	71.4%
Perceptual or Communicative Disability	32,546	33,660	96.7%
Hearing Disability	584	969	60.3%
Vision Disability	258	299	86.3%
Physical Disability			
Autism	33	65	50.8%
Traumatic Brain Injury	94	115	81.7%
Other Physical Disabilities	2,083	2,632	79.1%
Speech-Language Disability	10,010	11,987	83.5%
Multiple Disabilities			
Deaf-Blind	23	92	25.0%
Other Multiple Disabilities	1,550	2,962	52.3%
Preschool Child with a Disability	297	3,453	8.6%
Infant with a Disability	0	26	0.0%
Total	55,267	67,419	82.0%

- Almost all students with perceptual/communicative disabilities were served in their home school (96.7%).

Percent of Students, by Disability and Gender
December 1, 1994

Disability	Males		Females	
	#	%	#	%
Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity	1,546	53.6%	1,339	46.4%
Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability	6,468	78.2%	1,806	21.8%
Perceptual or Communicative Disability	22,869	67.9%	10,791	32.1%
Hearing Disability	488	50.4%	481	49.6%
Vision Disability	172	57.5%	127	42.5%
Physical Disability				
Autism	56	86.2%	9	13.8%
Traumatic Brain Injury	69	60.0%	46	40.0%
Other Physical Disabilities	1,909	72.5%	723	27.5%
Speech-Language Disability	7,718	64.4%	4,269	35.6%
Multiple Disabilities				
Deaf-Blind	57	62.0%	35	38.0%
Other Multiple Disabilities	1,790	60.4%	1,172	39.6%
Preschool Child with a Disability	2,343	67.9%	1,110	32.1%
Infant with a Disability	17	65.4%	9	34.6%
Total	45,502	67.5%	21,917	32.5%
Total Membership	329,337	51.4%	311,184	48.6%

- The percentage of special education students that were males was 67.5%, compared to 51.4% of the total public school membership. This percentage was consistent throughout all grade levels.

Exit Status of Students with Disabilities
December 1, 1994

Status	Number of Students	Percent of Total
Transferred Out of Administrative Unit - Continuing	8,132	45.9%
Transferred Out of Special Education	4,180	23.6%
Graduated with a Diploma	1,597	9.0%
Moved - Not Known to be Continuing	1,593	9.0%
Dropped Out of School	948	5.4%
Other	804	4.5%
Non-Public Home-Based Educational Program	234	1.3%
Graduated Through Certificate of Completion	118	0.7%
Deceased	55	0.3%
Reached Maximum Age	54	0.3%
Total	17,715	100.0%

- Each administrative unit reports the number of children that leave its special education programs from one year to the next, along with the reasons for the exit; but individual children are not tracked from one administrative unit to another. On December 1, 1994, there were 17,715 children that had exited special education programs at some time during the previous twelve months. Almost half of these students (45.9%) were known to be continuing in special education in another administrative unit; 23.6% had completed all the objectives of their special education programs and were continuing in the administrative unit full-time in regular education; 9.7% graduated from high school; 9.0% moved, and were not known to be continuing in special education; 5.4% dropped out of school; and the remainder left for various other reasons.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL

Special Education Staff
December 1, 1994

INSTRUCTION		
Teachers	3,362.385	
Speech Correctionists	595.337	
Instructional Aides	2,673.131	
Tutor Interpreters	116.308	
TOTAL INSTRUCTION		**6,747.161**
SUPPORT SERVICES		
RELATED SERVICES STAFF		
Nurses	146.746	
Occupational Therapists	145.025	
Physical Therapists	48.040	
Psychologists	401.172	
School Social Workers	283.832	
Audiologists	31.214	
TOTAL RELATED SERVICES STAFF		1,056.029
ADMINISTRATORS		
Supervisors	63.093	
Assistant Directors and Directors	69.037	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATORS		132.130
OTHER SUPPORT STAFF		
Specialty Teachers	52.151	
Other Professionals	53.488	
Office Support	208.120	
Other Non-Licensed/Certificated Staff	91.398	
TOTAL OTHER SUPPORT STAFF		405.157
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES		**1,593.316**
GRAND TOTAL		**8,340.477**

- On December 1, 1994, administrative units employed 8,340.5 FTE salaried and purchased services staff. Eighty-one percent (81%) provided direct instructional services to children with disabilities. Only 1.6% were administrators.

- The ratio of students to special education teachers and speech correctionists was 17.0. When paraprofessionals and tutor interpreters are added, this ratio drops to 10.0. There was an average of .7 FTE paraprofessionals and tutor interpreters for every special education teacher and speech correctionist, and there was an administrator for every 38.7 professionals.

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Special Education Expenditures
1994-95

INSTRUCTION		
Salaries	$166,617,038	
Fringe Benefits	34,519,418	
Purchased Services Personnel	511,397	
Staff Travel	698,354	
Private or Agency Contracts	1,529,053	
Tuition to Other Administrative Units	2,798,140	
Tuition to Agencies and Facilities	14,015,188	
Other Purchased Services	1,039,624	
Supplies and Materials	1,902,337	
Capital Outlay	1,256,949	
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS		$224,887,498
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Salaries	$52,880,409	
Fringe Benefits	10,777,180	
Purchased Services Personnel	1,168,933	
Staff Travel	729,500	
Private or Agency Contracts	506,477	
Other Purchased Services	1,070,233	
Supplies and Materials	920,833	
Capital Outlay	673,816	
Other	545,456	
TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES COSTS		$69,272,837
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		$294,160,335

- During the 1994-95 school year, special education and related services in Colorado public schools cost $294.2 million. This was an 8.9% increase from the previous year's special education costs, but special education expenditures as a percent of the total cost of education remained at 7.4%.

- Salaries comprised 74.6% of the total cost of public school special education programs; benefits were 15.4%; purchased services, which included tuition to other administrative units and to eligible facilities, was 8.2% of the total cost of programs; and supplies, equipment, and other expenditures were 1.8%.

- The average cost per student in 1994-95 was $4,363. This varied across administrative units from a low of $2,528 per student to a high of $5,836.

Special Education Revenues
Fiscal Year 1994-95

State Funds	
Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA)	55,389,983
PPOR for 3 and 4 Year Old Children with Disabilities	8,644,997
Total State Funds	$64,034,980
Federal Funds	
Chapter I, Handicapped	$1,227,963
IDEA: Part B	23,965,825
IDEA: Preschool Services	3,817,836
IDEA: Part H, Infant and Toddler Services	95,310
Transition Services	104,461
Vocational Education	450,399
Vocational Rehabilitation	134,237
Other Federal Funds	113,438
Total Federal Funds	$29,909,469
Other Funds	242,638
General Fund	199,973,248
Total Expenditures for Special Education	**$294,160,335**

- Local school district funds supported 67.9% of the total cost of public school special education programs in 1994-95; State dollars accounted for 21.8% of special education revenues; the Federal Government covered 10.2% of the cost of the programs; and .1% of the cost was supported by other funds.

INDIVIDUAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT DATA

Percent of Membership
December 1, 1994

Administrative Units	1994 Count	1994 Membership	Percent of Membership
Adams 1, Mapleton	634	4,898	12.9%
Adams 12, Northglenn	2,695	23,373	11.5%
Adams 14, Commerce City	750	6,280	11.9%
Adams 27J, Brighton	435	4,304	10.1%
Adams 50, Westminster	1,310	11,441	11.5%
Arapahoe 1, Englewood	489	4,650	10.5%
Arapahoe 2, Sheridan	276	1,983	13.9%
Arapahoe 5, Cherry Creek	3,757	34,714	10.8%
Arapahoe 6, Littleton	1,521	15,751	9.7%
Adams–Arapahoe 28J, Aurora	3,287	27,421	12.0%
Boulder RE1J, Longmont	1,417	16,482	8.6%
Boulder RE2, Boulder	2,898	24,658	11.8%
Clear Creek RE–1, Idaho Springs	208	1,742	11.9%
Delta 50J, Delta	574	4,564	12.6%
Denver 1, Denver	7,655	62,773	12.2%
Douglas RE 1, Castle Rock	1,686	20,041	8.4%
Elizabeth/Platte Canyon	374	3,342	11.2%
El Paso 2, Harrison	1,458	10,753	13.6%
El Paso 3, Widefield	1,027	8,279	12.4%
El Paso 8, Fountain	575	4,437	13.0%
El Paso 11, Colorado Springs	3,671	32,539	11.3%
El Paso 20, Academy	1,048	13,529	7.7%
Fremont RE–1, Canon City	438	3,935	11.1%
Gunnison RE1J, Gunnison	131	1,714	7.6%
Jefferson R–1, Lakewood	7,546	84,018	9.0%
Larimer R–1, Fort Collins	1,927	21,183	9.1%
Larimer R–2J, Loveland	1,431	13,137	10.9%
Larimer R–3, Estes Park	189	1,399	13.5%
Logan RE–1, Sterling	384	2,764	13.9%
Mesa 51, Grand Junction	2,186	19,103	11.4%
Moffat RE 1, Craig	369	2,847	13.0%
Montrose RE–1J, Montrose	527	5,587	9.4%
Pueblo 60, Pueblo (urban)	1,514	18,001	8.4%
Pueblo 70, Pueblo (rural)	390	4,749	8.2%
Weld RE–4, Windsor	146	1,890	7.7%
Weld 6, Greeley	1,438	12,931	11.1%
Arkansas Valley BOCES, La Junta	693	5,904	11.7%
East Central BOCES, Limon	572	5,179	11.0%
Mountain BOCES, Leadville	1,713	18,913	9.1%
Northeast Colorado BOCES, Haxtun	610	4,730	12.9%
Northwest Colorado BOCES, Steamboat Springs	521	4,813	10.8%
Pikes Peak BOCS, Colorado Springs	1,729	17,061	10.1%
Rio Blanco BOCS, Rangely	154	1,617	9.5%
San Juan BOCS, Durango	719	8,014	9.0%
San Luis Valley BOCS, Alamosa	823	9,341	8.8%
South Central BOCS, Pueblo	589	6,097	9.7%
South Platte Valley BOCES, Fort Morgan	596	5,514	10.8%
Southeastern BOCES, Lamar	557	5,232	10.6%
Southwest BOCS, Cortez	669	6,438	10.4%
Weld BOCES, La Salle	1,113	10,219	10.9%
Expeditionary BOCES		237	
TOTALS	67,419	640,521	10.5%

COST PER STUDENT
1994–95

Administrative Units	Total Expenditures	Total Students Served	Cost per Student
Adams 1, Mapleton	$2,007,998	634	$3,167
Adams 12, Northglenn	11,412,065	2,695	4,235
Adams 14, Commerce City	3,402,326	750	4,536
Adams 27J, Brighton	1,817,675	435	4,179
Adams 50, Westminster	6,572,875	1,310	5,017
Arapahoe 1, Englewood	2,179,390	489	4,457
Arapahoe 2, Sheridan	982,526	276	3,560
Arapahoe 5, Cherry Creek	16,921,843	3,757	4,504
Arapahoe 6, Littleton	7,952,432	1,521	5,228
Adams–Arapahoe 28J, Aurora	15,187,536	3,287	4,620
Boulder RE1J, Longmont	5,689,494	1,417	4,015
Boulder RE2, Boulder	13,952,511	2,898	4,815
Clear Creek RE–1, Idaho Springs	889,124	208	4,275
Delta 50J, Delta	1,502,972	574	2,618
Denver 1, Denver	34,943,702	7,655	4,565
Douglas RE 1, Castle Rock	8,590,139	1,686	5,095
Elizabeth/Platte Canyon	1,466,487	374	3,921
El Paso 2, Harrison	6,437,035	1,458	4,415
El Paso 3, Widefield	3,655,719	1,027	3,560
El Paso 8, Fountain	2,322,962	575	4,040
El Paso 11, Colorado Springs	14,368,618	3,671	3,914
El Paso 20, Academy	4,659,469	1,048	4,446
Fremont RE–1, Canon City	1,370,353	438	3,129
Gunnison RE1J, Gunnison	575,547	131	4,393
Jefferson R–1, Lakewood	44,039,262	7,546	5,836
Larimer R–1, Fort Collins	8,986,171	1,927	4,663
Larimer R–2J, Loveland	5,420,102	1,431	3,788
Larimer R–3, Estes Park	477,757	189	2,528
Logan RE–1, Sterling	1,020,622	384	2,658
Mesa 51, Grand Junction	8,291,995	2,186	3,793
Moffat RE 1, Craig	1,036,306	369	2,808
Montrose RE–1J, Montrose	2,186,043	527	4,148
Pueblo 60, Pueblo (urban)	7,106,474	1,514	4,694
Pueblo 70, Pueblo (rural)	1,366,743	390	3,504
Weld RE–4, Windsor	644,293	146	4,413
Weld 6, Greeley	5,779,277	1,438	4,019
Arkansas Valley BOCES, La Junta	2,186,365	693	3,155
East Central BOCES, Limon	1,737,758	572	3,038
Mountain BOCES, Leadville	5,908,456	1,713	3,449
Northeast Colorado BOCES, Haxtun	2,065,365	610	3,386
Northwest Colorado BOCES, Steamboat Springs	2,103,751	521	4,038
Pikes Peak BOCS, Colorado Springs	6,855,872	1,729	3,965
Rio Blanco BOCS, Rangely	677,935	154	4,402
San Juan BOCS, Durango	2,587,571	719	3,599
San Luis Valley BOCS, Alamosa	2,805,615	823	3,409
South Central BOCS, Pueblo	2,385,034	589	4,049
South Platte Valley BOCES, Fort Morgan	2,172,828	596	3,646
Southeastern BOCES, Lamar	1,561,536	557	2,803
Southwest BOCS, Cortez	2,195,477	669	3,282
Weld BOCES, La Salle	3,700,929	1,113	3,325
TOTALS	$294,160,335	67,419	$4,363